

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 A-01 SY-05 OPR-01 SCCT-01

OC-05 CCO-00 AID-05 /090 W  
----- 013414

P R 041604Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3195

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS LE

SUBJECT: MORE CLASHES IN SIDON

REF: BEIRUT 2837

1. DEPT WILL DOUBTLESS HAVE NOTED FROM FBIS REPORTS  
THAT ANOTHER INCIDENT OCCURED IN SIDON AT 1815 LOCAL  
MAR 3, WHEN ARMY TRUCK TRANSPORTING LEBANESE SOLDIERS  
TO THEIR UNITS IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS AMBUSHED ON MAIN  
COASTAL ROAD BY "ARMED ELEMENTS" FIRING ROCKETS AND  
MACHINE GUNS FROM POSITIONS IN TOWN'S CITADEL. OFFICIAL  
CASUALTY TOLL WAS ONE SOLDIER KILLED AND 29 RPT 29  
WOUNDED, WHICH BRINGS TOTAL ARMY-POLICE CASUALTIES  
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IN SIDONWOUNDED, WHICH BRINGS TOTAL ARMY-POLICE CASUALTIES

IN SIDON TO 9 DEAD AND 43 WOUNDED SINCE  
FIGHTING BEGAN ON FEB 26.

2. ABOVE INCIDENT APPARENTLY PROVOKED RENEWED  
EXCHANGES OF FIRE BETWEEN LEBANESE TROOPS AND SIDON  
INSURGENTS DURING EVENING HOURS MAR 3. WE UNDER-  
STAND THAT IT ALSO CAUSED ARMY LEADERSHIP TO CONSIDER  
LAUNCHING ALL-OUT CLEAN-UP OPERATION IN SIDON MAR 4,  
BUT THIS IDEA APPARENTLY WAS SCOTCHED AND CEASE FIRE  
RESTORED WHEN PLO'S ABU ZA'IM SUCCEEDED IN ARRESTING  
ALLEGED INSTIGATOR OF INCIDENT (IDENTIFIED AS A  
LEBANESE LEFTIST THUG) AND TURNED HIM OVER TO GOL  
AUTHORITIES. HIS ACCOMPLICES ARE STILL BEING SOUGHT,  
BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE NO INFO REGARDING THEIR WHERE-  
ABOUTS, NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY EXPLANATION OF HOW ABU  
ZA'IM MANAGED TO LAY HIS HANDS ON ALLEGED INSTIGATOR  
SO HANDILY.

3. AS OF MID-DAY MAR 4, SIDON REPORTEDLY WAS AGAIN  
QUIET BUT STILL UNDER INSURGENT CONTROL, AND "NEGOTIA-  
TIONS" WERE EVIDENTLY STILL IN PROGRESS BETWEEN GOL-  
PLO TEAM AND LEFTIST SIDONIAN ELEMENTS. PRESSURES  
REPORTED REFTEL ON SOLH CABINET TO RESIGN ARE STILL IN  
EVIDENCE, BUT WE EXPECT NO DECISIVE DEVELOPMENTS ON  
THIS FRONT UNTIL AFTER CABINET MEETING WITH PRES  
FRANGIE, REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR MAR 5.

4. MAR 3 WITNESSED MASS FUNERAL IN SIDON OF 8 PERSONS  
KILLED IN CLASHES REPORTED OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS.  
ALTHOUGH ATMOSPHERE WAS CHARGED WITH TENSION, FUNERALS  
PROCEEDED WITHOUT INCIDENT.  
HOUGHTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CASUALTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT02894  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750075-0679  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750386/aaaaczll.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2003  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MORE CLASHES IN SIDON  
**TAGS:** PINS, PORS, LE  
**To:** STATE DIA  
**Type:** TE  
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